



The Helena Mineral Society Newsletter



Gem, Mineral, and Geological Education and Experience

May 2011

In This Issue:

Page 1:

From the Editor

Page 2

Coming Events

Page 3:

Tidbits

Page 4:

Classifieds

From The Editor:

Ahh, it appears spring has finally arrived! This month I will talk about what tools, gear and so-forth you will need when going collecting. For the new members this is a good guideline and for the old hands at collecting, a refresher.

Basic tools needed are: a good rock hammer, safety goggles for eye protection, shovel, pick, bags or buckets for specimens, various sizes of chisels, 3 pound crack hammer, 1/8" and 1/2" screens, gold pan, a screw driver and small garden tools such as a trowel and cultivator.

If collecting sapphires or garnets: tweezers, film or pill bottle, small whisk broom for cleaning out crevasses and

1/8" screen with foam pad and backer board to concentrate the material in water.

A few other tools that come in handy are: sledge hammer, pry bar or spud bar and a 10 power loope (magnifying glass). A GPS is good to have too.

Once the specimen has be collected, care must be taken to protect it from damage. Paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex and newspaper are all good choices for wrapping that treasure. Various sizes of plastic compartmental boxes are handy for the smaller specimens.

Drinking water, snacks or lunch, a basic first aid kit, sun screen, insect repellent, a wide brimmed hat, long sleeve shirt, good boots, several coats, rain gear and maps are a necessity also.

Now that we know what items are needed for a collecting trip, go forth and discover the abundance of collectable minerals that are found in this area.

As always, the Helena Mineral Society is in need of grab bag and ball toss material. On collecting trips, pick up extra for the club. Contact me, Gary, if you have no storage space. I will be glad to pick it up from you.

**Helena Mineral Society
Officers for 2010-2011**

President: Andrew Horton
227-2615 andrew@mt.net

Vice-president: Kathy Bruce
443-1175

Secretary: Vacant

Membership Chairman
Mary Ellen McDonald
442-4339

Treasurer: James Bruce
443-1175 jbruce4@aol.com

Member-at-Large: Norm Smith
475-3127

Historian: Phyllis Smith

Field Trip Chairman:
Martin Landry
mlandry121@yahoo.com
431-8081

Show Chairman: Gary Parisi
442-1226

Program Chairman: David Jordan
443-0348

Newsletter Editor: Gary Parisi
gjparisi72@yahoo.com

www.helenamineralsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

It's time to renew your annual membership if you haven't already. Dues are due on May 1 of each year so, please renew now.

Membership fees are \$12.50 for a single and \$20.00 for a family. Please send your check to Helena Mineral Society, P. O. Box 736, Helena, MT 59624. When renewing, include a note letting us know if you'd like to receive your newsletter and minutes electronically and be sure to include your email address.

Also, if you've had a change of address, phone number or email address, let us know when renewing or anytime there is a change through out the year. Contact Membership Chair Mary Ellen McDonald at 442-4339 or meormcd@msn.com if you have questions.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR
MEMBERSHIP DUES, THIS IS THE LAST
NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE.**

Just a reminder: please turn cell phones to off or vibrate during HMS meetings. Thank you!

Upcoming field trips:

May 21- Copper City, depart old Dillards parking lot at 9:00 AM

June 4- White Earth area, depart old Dillards parking lot at 7:00 AM This trip may be canceled due to high winds on lake. Contact Martin for info.

June 11 and 12- Butte Mineral Show

June 18- Sauerbaer garnet dig, depart old Dillards parking lot at 7:00 AM

Next regular meeting is June 9, 2011



Chert picking in the snow, April 16. Photos courtesy Gene Hodge



Aerial views of the White Earth area.
Photos courtesy Tom Weitz

Meetings

The Helena Mineral Society meets at the Mountain West Bank located on Montana Avenue between Aspen and Poplar. Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. There is no regular meeting for the month of December. See you there! Friends, guests, and new members are always welcome

To place a classified ad, please see me in person at one of our regular meetings or you may e-mail me (Gary) with your information at gjparisi72@yahoo.com. Ad will run in the newsletter for that month only unless specifically requested to run longer.

Pictures and Articles Needed:

If you have a picture that you want to share, please send it to me, along with a short description of the activity, where it took place, and when, and I'll put it in the newsletter. If you'd like to share your field trip adventures with those members who are unable to attend, please feel free to contribute to the newsletter. Just e-mail me your experiences, and I'll make sure they're entered. Remember, this is your newsletter, and your contributions make it better.

Helena Mineral Society, Inc.
PO Box 736
Helena, Montana 59624

